GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3992
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2017
Rules for Upgradation of Schools
Sonker Smt. Neelam

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the procedure for upgradation of Primary school to Middle school and Middle school to Secondary level;

(b) the State-wise details of the number of Primary and middle schools upgraded during the last three years in the country;

(c) whether the Government proposes to promote the education by relaxing the approved criteria for upgradation of schools situated in SC/ST/OBC approved criteria
dominated areas; and

(d) if so, the details of the approved criteria and rules which are proposed to be relaxed?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) to (d): The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 provides for children's access to elementary schools within the defined area or limits of neighbourhood. Section 6 of the RTE Act provides that the appropriate government and local authorities shall establish, within the area or limits of a neighbourhood, a school, where it is not already established. Accordingly, all States have notified area or limits of their neighbourhood norms for opening of schools. Schools are sanctioned to the States and Union Territories under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) whenever there is such proposal within the neighbourhood norms of the States as defined in their RTE rules.

With a view to facilitating States to move towards composite elementary schools, the revised SSA norms provide that new upper primary schools/sections will be provided through upgradation of existing primary schools so that the school becomes an integrated elementary school from classes I to VIII. The building and infrastructure is therefore, constructed in existing primary school campuses. The norm of opening of upper primary school through upgrading existing primary is to facilitate smooth transition of students particularly, girls students from primary level to upper primary level.

Preference for opening of school is given to tribal areas, and areas with high concentration of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and minority population. In addition, 3609 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, which are residential schools for girls at upper primary level, have also been sanctioned to the States for improving access to marginalised girls particularly out of school, either drop out or never enrolled.

The Centrally sponsored scheme of Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) was launched in year 2009 with an aim to universalize access to secondary schools by providing a secondary school within a reasonable distance (5 kilometer) of every habitation, improving quality of education through making all secondary schools conform to prescribed norms and through removal of gender, socio-economic and disability barriers with special focus on SC/ST/Minority/hilly and difficult areas. Under the Scheme, every year State/UT Government propose their Annual Work Plan and Budget for Central Assistance, which are examined and approved as per RMSA guidelines depending on the identified gaps in the State, physical and financial progress of earlier approved interventions.

State-wise details of upper primary schools and secondary schools sanctioned under SSA and RMSA respectively, during last three years are given at Annexure.

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